

Labour Force Survey products guide

Guide to labour statistics

Learn about all the products and outputs we produce from the monthly Labour Force Survey and how to use them

Released 18/03/2025

Sections

▼ [Guide to labour statistics](#)

[Labour statistics recent and upcoming developments](#)

[About labour statistics](#)

▶ [Earnings guide](#)

▶ [Gender pay gap guide](#)

[Industry employment guide](#)

[Regional labour market data guide](#)

[Hours worked guide](#)

▼ [Labour Force Survey products guide](#)

On this page

[Overview](#)

[Labour Force Survey products](#)

[Product characteristics](#)

[Which product is right for me?](#)

[Differences in estimates](#)

[Labour Force Survey concepts and data item guide](#)

[Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product](#)

Close

Overview

We produce a range of outputs that use data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). It can be challenging to choose which data product to use. This guide will help you understand which product is right for you and where to find it. The guide also includes:

- information on the [concepts and data items available from the LFS, and detailed information on the associated outputs \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/labour-force-survey-concepts-and-data-item-guide\)](#)
- information on the [Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/labour-force-survey-plida-linked-microdata-product\)](#), and how to use it.

The LFS provides information about the work activities of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and older. It provides key figures on employment, unemployment, underemployment, participation, and hours worked for Australia, as well as the states and territories.

The Labour Force Survey [methodology \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology\)](#) page has more information on how we produce the data.

Labour Force Survey products

There are a variety of ways to access LFS data depending on your requirements. LFS data are available in:

- [Labour Force, Australia \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release\)](#)
- Selected tables in [Data Explorer \(https://dataexplorer.abs.gov.au/?fs\[0\]=Labour%2C0%7CEmployment%20and%20Unemployment%23EMPLOYMENT_UNEMPLOYMENT%23&pg=0&fc=Labour&bp=true&snb=10\)](#)
- The Longitudinal Labour Force Survey microdata in [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](#)
- [TableBuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/labour-force-survey\)](#), where you can produce your own customised tables
- Labour Force microdata module in [Person Level Integrated Data Asset \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/person-level-integrated-data-asset-plida\)](#) (PLIDA)

[Labour Force, Australia \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release\)](#) is the first release. This product includes final Australia, state and territory level statistics on employment, unemployment, underemployment, underutilisation, participation, monthly and quarterly hours worked and gross flows. Information is presented in a summary publication and pre-prepared spreadsheets.

LFS data are a key source of regional labour market information, to learn more see the [Regional labour market data guide \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/regional-labour-market-data-guide\)](#).

You can find more information about the different ABS data platforms on the [Compare data services \(/about/data-services/compare-data-services\)](#) page.

Labour Force, Australia

- Primary source of Labour Force data
- Includes headline estimates of employment, unemployment, underemployment, participation and hours worked for Australia
- State and Territory level headline estimates
- Original, Seasonally Adjusted and Trend data series
- Regional labour market data (SA4), specifically the [modelled estimates \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release#modelled-labour-market-regions-sa4-\)](#)

Labour Force Data Explorer

- Online tool that presents data in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way
- Automatically generate API calls to pull data into your own system
- Includes small number of headline estimates and compositional breakdowns
- Original, Seasonally Adjusted and Trend data series

Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia

- Detailed longitudinal LFS microdata available in DataLab
- Enables analysis of how the labour force status and other characteristics of respondents changes for each of

the 8 months they are in the LFS

- Contains data from each monthly LFS, along with data collected from labour supplementary surveys and multipurpose household surveys
- Available from October 1982 onwards

Labour Force TableBuilder

- Customise and save your own tables using LFS data
- Wide range of labour market concepts and compositional breakdowns available
- Contains data from August 2006
- Includes International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC) and International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

Labour Force PLIDA Modular Product

- Detailed LFS microdata available in DataLab
- Enables in-depth analysis of LFS data integrated with administrative datasets including, health, education, government payments and taxation
- Monthly datasets from June 2023 to present

LFS data are also a key input to the quarterly [Labour Account \(/statistics/labour/labour-accounts/labour-account-australia/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/labour-accounts/labour-account-australia/latest-release), which combines multiple sources of data to create a consistent set of aggregate labour market statistics. The Labour Account is the best source of industry employment and jobs over time (see our [Industry employment guide \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide)).

LFS products at a glance...



Product	Labour Force, Australia	Data Explorer	Longitudinal Labour Force(a)(c)	TableBuilder(b)(c)	PLIDA(a)(c)
Series start date	February 1978	February 1978	October 1982	August 2006	June 2023
Monthly data available	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
'Quarter month' data available	✓		✓	✓	✓
Customisable		■	✓	✓	✓
Regional data (SA4)	✓ (d)		■ (d)	■ (d)	■ (d)
International classifications				✓	
Seasonally adjusted and trend estimates	✓	✓			
Modelled records	✓	✓	■ (e)	■ (e)	
Free to access	✓	✓		✓	

✓ Recommended: Data available and intended for this use.

■ Published: Data available however limitations should be noted.

(a) See the [DataLab access \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab#applying-for-datalab-access\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab#applying-for-datalab-access) page.

(b) [Registration \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder#how-to-access\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder#how-to-access) is required to access TableBuilder datasets.

(c) See Differences in estimates section for more information

(d) See [Regional labour market data guide \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/regional-labour-market-data-guide\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/regional-labour-market-data-guide) for specific guidance

(e) Includes sample of modelled records

Product characteristics

Dataset types

Labour Force Survey data is available in 2 dataset types, summary and unit record level.

Summary or aggregated data is the primary format for statistics available in Labour Force, Australia, and Data Explorer. Unit record level data is available as microdata from the Longitudinal Labour Force product and the LFS PLIDA module and is used for customised analysis. The LFS TableBuilder product draws on unit record level data to enable you to produce tables customised to your specifications.

Key LFS data is available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series data in Labour Force, Australia, and Data Explorer. Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique that attempts to measure and remove the effects of calendar related patterns (i.e. which happen at the same time every year). This allows other influences on the series to be more clearly recognised. Trend series data is smoothed seasonally adjusted data and reduces the impact of non-seasonal influences.

The ABS considers that trend series data provides a more reliable guide to the underlying direction of the data and are more suitable for supporting most business decisions and policy advice.

For more information see [Seasonal Adjustment and Changing Seasonality \(/articles/seasonal-adjustment-and-changing-seasonality-labour-force-statistics\)](#) and [Time Series Analysis FAQ \(/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1346.0.55.002\)](#).

Customisation

There are a large range of pre-prepared tables available for download in the main LFS publications and Data Explorer. However, if the exact combination of information you are interested in is not available, the TableBuilder product offers more flexibility and customisation.

The TableBuilder product provides a much larger range of information and is the only source of data using international classifications, the International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC) and International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

As the level of customisation increases, you need higher levels of statistical skill and understanding to use it. So, for advanced users seeking detailed customised analysis of LFS data the Longitudinal Labour Force microdata and LFS PLIDA modular products are available.

Cost and access

There are a variety of ways to access LFS data depending on your requirements. You can access the main LFS publications and pre-prepared tables for free on the ABS website. The LFS Data Explorer tables are available through API and on the Data Explorer [website \(/about/data-services/data-explorer\)](#).

The Longitudinal Labour Force and PLIDA modular products are only available in the DataLab environment. Specific project approval and online training need to be completed before access is granted. For more information see the [DataLab access \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab#applying-for-datalab-access\)](#) page.

Labour Force TableBuilder access is by organisation and is free but requires [registration \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder#how-to-access\)](#).

Inclusion of modelled unit records

Improvements to LFS estimation introduced in early 2024, have resulted in a mixture of direct and modelled unit records in LFS products. Inclusion of modelled unit records start from August 2016.

Direct unit records are household responses that are collected during the LFS enumeration period. The [methodology \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/dec-2024#collection-method\)](#) page has more information on this process.

Modelled unit records use secondary data sources combined with specific benchmarks to model 2 per cent of the LFS sample. This results in more representative estimates of the Australian civilian population. More information is

available in this article: [Improvements to Labour Force estimation method \(/articles/improvements-labour-force-estimation-method/\)](/articles/improvements-labour-force-estimation-method/).

The main LFS publications include all direct and all modelled unit records. To maintain usability, both the Longitudinal and TableBuilder products include a random sample of the modelled unit records along with all directly collected unit records. The LFS PLIDA module contains all directly collected records and no modelled unit records.

Modelled regional labour market estimates

The LFS has traditionally been the most used source of regional labour market data. This is because the data is available more frequently than other data sources. However, the usefulness of the LFS regional estimates is limited by the smaller sample counts that contribute to each region.

The modelled regional labour force estimates overcome this by using the combined power of administrative data and statistical modelling with the direct unit records. The administrative data sources used include de-identified Single Touch Payroll data from the Australian Taxation Office and Youth Allowance and JobSeeker data from the Department of Social Services.

The ABS recommends using these over the direct survey estimates whenever possible. See the 'Modelled v direct estimates' section of the [Regional labour market guide \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/regional-labour-market-data-guide#our-headline-regional-labour-market-information\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/regional-labour-market-data-guide#our-headline-regional-labour-market-information) for more information.

Which product is right for me?

There are many different ways to interact with and discover data from the Labour Force Survey. A good place to start is by defining the question you are trying to answer with LFS data. Below is a table that provides some examples to help you get started and find which product is right for you.

Product	Example uses / questions
Labour Force, Australia	• What is the national unemployment rate? • How has the monthly hours worked by females changed over the last 5 years? • What is the participation rate of people residing in Toowoomba (SA4 region)?
Labour Force Data Explorer	• Best for setting up regular repetitive exports of headline estimates
Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia	• Best for analysis of data over long periods of time, including labour force status transitions
Labour Force TableBuilder	• What are the education attainment estimates of underemployed people? • Using the international standard classification of occupations, how many clerical support workers were there in December 2023?
LFS PLIDA Module	• How does the LFS unemployed population overlap with the benefit recipient population?
Labour Account	• What is the proportion of multiple job holders in the Construction industry?

Differences in estimates

In 2024, [improvements \(/articles/improvements-labour-force-estimation-method/\)](/articles/improvements-labour-force-estimation-method/) were made to LFS estimation methods for some relatively small population groups within the sample that are traditionally hard to enumerate, by

modelling records using auxiliary administrative data.

While this has resulted in a small improvement in the quality of LFS estimates (published in Labour Force, Australia), it does mean that there may be differences in LFS summary figures derived from each of the Longitudinal Labour Force dataset, LFS TableBuilder and the LFS PLIDA modular product. It is important to understand these differences when choosing how to access LFS data.

The Longitudinal Labour Force microdata product contains a random subset of the modelled sample records resulting in a slight difference in aggregated estimates compared to the main publications.

The TableBuilder product is based on the Longitudinal Labour Force dataset therefore, the same differences to the main LFS publications are present in both products. In addition, the TableBuilder product is subject to [confidentiality restrictions \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder/confidentiality-and-relative-standard-error\)](#) specific to the TableBuilder format resulting in further small but random differences in aggregated totals. This has a negligible impact on the underlying patterns of the data but will be more obvious for more complex customised tables.

The LFS PLIDA module does not contain any modelled records. There will be differences between summary figures derived from this dataset compared to the main estimates. The ABS recommends using this module only for integrated data analysis. The use of this dataset requires linkage to the PLIDA spine which introduces additional limitations on the data that must be accounted for as part of any analysis conducted. For more information on linkage and the LFS PLIDA module see [Explanatory notes for the Labour Force Survey PMP modules \(https://author-prod.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/explanatory-notes-labour-force-survey-pmp-modules\)](https://author-prod.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/explanatory-notes-labour-force-survey-pmp-modules).



[Home](#) > [Statistics](#) > [Understanding statistics](#) > [Guide to labour statistics](#) > [Labour Force Survey products guide](#)
> [Labour Force Survey concepts and data item guide](#)

Labour Force Survey concepts and data item guide

Guide to labour statistics

Definitions for the concepts and data items published in Labour Force, Australia and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed.

Released 18/03/2025

Sections

▼ [Guide to labour statistics](#)

[Labour statistics recent and upcoming developments](#)

[About labour statistics](#)

▶ [Earnings guide](#)

▶ [Gender pay gap guide](#)

[Industry employment guide](#)

[Regional labour market data guide](#)

[Hours worked guide](#)

▼ [Labour Force Survey products guide](#)

[Labour Force Survey concepts and data item guide](#)

On this page

[Concepts and data items A-Z](#)

[Detailed output information](#)

[Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product](#)

Close

Overview

This guide provides information on:

- Labour Force Survey concepts and data items A-Z, including descriptions and definitions and where each data item can be sourced within Labour Force Survey standard products
- Detailed output information, including the Labour Force Survey standard outputs and data items contained within each spreadsheet

More detailed information is available in [Labour Statistics: Concepts Sources and Methods \(https://author-productio.n.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](https://author-productio.n.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release), describing the history of changes to the Labour Force Survey and the alignment of concepts and data items to conceptual frameworks and international definitions.

Modernising the Labour Force Survey

This page is currently under review as the ABS modernises the Labour Force Survey. For details of outputs during this period see [Upcoming changes to Labour Force Survey outputs \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/upcoming-changes-labour-force-survey-outputs\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/upcoming-changes-labour-force-survey-outputs).

For further details on these plans, see [Modernising the Labour Force Survey \(/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey\)](/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey), and [How the ABS quality assures Labour Force data during times of change \(/articles/how-abs-quality-assures-labour-force-data-during-times-change\)](/articles/how-abs-quality-assures-labour-force-data-during-times-change).

Concepts and data items A-Z

Concepts and data items A



Actively looked for work

Specific steps taken by job seekers to find work. Actively looked for work includes: written, telephoned or applied to an employer; had an interview with an employer for work; answered an advertisement for a job; checked or registered with an employment agency; taken steps to purchase or start your own business; advertised or tendered for work; and contacted friends or relatives to find work. The reference period for these steps is the four week period prior to interview.

The data item 'active steps taken to find work' is not directly referenced in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) main publications. It is collected in the LFS to help determine if a person is unemployed. To be classified as unemployed a person must be without work, actively looking for work, and available to work. More information can be found in [Labour Statistics: Concepts Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release).

Actual hours worked

See 'Hours actually worked'.

Age

A person's age at their last birthday at the time they responded to the survey. The civilian population aged 15 years and over is in scope of the LFS, however some data items are only presented for persons aged 15-24 years. Certain characteristics by five or ten year age groups are available in some prepared tables.

Data Item	Tables
15 years and over presented in 5 and 10 year age groups up to 65 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1 Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 01, 20a, 23b, 29b Datacubes LM1, LM5, LQ1, LQ2, EQ12, EQ13, EM1a, EM2a, EM3a, EM4a, EM5a, FM2
15 years and over presented in 5 and 10 year age groups up to 85 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube LM9
15 years and over presented in 10 year age groups up to 65 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14d Datacubes UM3, RM1, NM1, EQ07a
15 years and over presented in 10 year age groups up to 55 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia Tables 22, 24
15-29 year olds presented in 5 and 10 year age groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 25b
15-24 year olds presented in 5 year age groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 03 Datacube LM3, LM3a
15-24 year olds	Labour Force, Australia Tables 13, 15, 16
15-19 year olds	Labour Force, Australia Table 17
15-64 year olds	Labour Force, Australia Table 18
20-64 year olds	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 24b

Aggregate duration of job search

See 'Number of weeks searching for a job'.

Aggregate hours worked

See 'Monthly hours worked in all jobs'.

Aggregate monthly hours worked

See 'Monthly hours worked in all jobs'.

Aggregate weeks unemployed

See 'Number of weeks searching for a job'.

All jobs

Employed persons may have more than one job. All jobs data items are about all the work that an employed person undertook during the reference week, not only the work that they undertook in their main job. A person's main job is the job in which they usually work the most number of hours.

Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15-24 years enrolled at secondary or high school or enrolled as a full-time student at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

See 'Educational attendance (full-time)'.

Attending full-time tertiary educational institution

Persons aged 15-24 years enrolled full-time at a TAFE college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week, except those persons aged 15-19 years who were still attending school.

See 'Educational attendance (full-time)'.

Attending school

Persons aged 15-19 years enrolled at secondary or high school in the reference week.

See 'Educational attendance (full-time)'.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)

See 'Occupation'.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)

See 'Industry'.

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

See 'Geography'.

Available to work

Includes persons who were available to work in the reference week, or waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week (and could have started work in the reference week if the job had been available then).

The data item 'available to work' is not directly referenced in LFS main publications. It is collected in the LFS to help determine if a person is unemployed. To be classified as unemployed a person must be without work, actively looking for work, and available to work. More information can be found in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

Concepts and data items B - E



Child

A child is:

- any person aged under 15 years in the household
- a person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step or foster child of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of their own usually resident in the household
- a person aged 15-17 years who was reported as being under the guardianship or care of another person aged 18 years and over in the household.

Children included in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are classified as either dependent students or non-dependent children. Parents included in the LFS who have dependants are classified as lone parents or couple families with a child or children under 15 years or dependent students.

See 'Family'.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Civilian population

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over, except:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from Census of Population and Housing and estimated resident population counts
- overseas residents in Australia (with the intention to stay in Australia less than 12 months) and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

The civilian population aged 15 years and over are in scope of the LFS. LFS estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over are benchmarked against estimated resident population estimates for the same group.

Contributing family worker

A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

See 'Status in employment'.

Country of birth

The [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\) \(/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release\)](#) is used to classify country of birth in the LFS. The SACC is based on the concept of geographic proximity. It groups neighbouring countries into progressively broader geographic areas based on similar social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

For those born overseas, the elapsed years since first arriving in Australia (with the intention to stay for more than 12 months, if arrival in Australia was less than 12 months ago) is also collected.

Persons born in the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, United States of America and South Africa are grouped into a category called 'Main English-speaking countries'. This is not a SACC grouping of countries.

See 'Elapsed years since arrival'.

Data Item	Tables
Major country group (subcontinent) of birth: SACC	
-Australia (includes External Territories)	
-Born overseas	
---Oceania and Antarctica	
---North-West Europe	
---Southern and Eastern Europe	
---North Africa and the Middle East	
---South-East Asia	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
---North-East Asia	Datacubes LM4, LM5
---Southern and Central Asia	
---Americas	
---Sub-Saharan Africa	
-Inadequately described / Born at sea	
-Not stated	
Main English-speaking countries	
-Born overseas	
---Main English-speaking countries	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
---Other than main English-speaking countries	Datacube LM7
-Born in Australia (includes External Territories)	
-Not stated / Inadequately described / Born at sea	

Couple family

A family with two persons who are in a registered or unregistered marriage and who are usually resident in the same household. The family may include others who are usually resident in the same household. A couple family may include a child or children.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Currently economically active

A person is considered to be economically active if that person contributes or is available and seeking to contribute to the production of goods and services that fall within the System of National Accounts production boundary. The currently economically active population is equivalent to the total labour force, and consists of the total number of persons defined as employed and unemployed. The currently economically active population is measured during a specified short period of time, and in Australia is based on the concept of usual residency of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. The currently economically active population excludes:

- persons under the age of 15 years;

- permanent members of the defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- persons not in the labour force.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

See 'Labour force status'.

See 'Usual resident'.

Dependants

All family members under the age of 15 years, and all children aged 15-24 years attending full-time education. Excludes those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Dependent student

A person who is:

- 15-24 years of age;
- usually resident in the same household as a parent, and
- who attends a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student.

Excludes those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Duration of current job

See 'Number of months with current employer or business'.

Duration of job search

The current and continuing period of unemployment for persons who are unemployed in the reference week. Duration of job search measures the elapsed number of weeks to the end of the reference week since an unemployed person began looking for work, or since that person last worked, whichever is the shorter. For persons who began looking for work while still employed, it is the period from the time the person last worked to the end of the reference week.

Persons who search for a job for 52 weeks or more are classified as long term unemployed.

See 'Number of weeks searching for a job'.

Applicable to unemployed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 12 months) ---Under 4 weeks (under 1 month) ---4 weeks and under 13 weeks (1-3 months) ---13 weeks and under 26 weeks (3-6 months) ---26 weeks and under 52 weeks (6-12 months) -52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed) ---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years) ---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14a Datacubes UM2, UM3
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 12 months) ---52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed) ---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years) ---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube FM4
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 1 year) ---52 weeks and over (1 year and over) ---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years) ---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 14b, 14c, 14d, 14e
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 12 months) ---Under 13 weeks (under 3 months) ---13 weeks and under 52 weeks (3-12 months) -52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube RM3
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b, UQ3a, UQ3b

Duration of unemployment

See 'Duration of job search'.

Educational attainment

See 'Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)'.

Educational attendance (detailed)

Enrolled at secondary or high school or enrolled as a full-time student at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over.

Data Item	Tables
Attending educational institution ('000) Attending full-time education ('000) -Attending tertiary educational institution full-time ('000) -Attending school (aged 15-19 years) ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 25a, 25b
Not attending full-time education ('000) -Attending tertiary educational institution part-time ('000) -Not attending educational institution ('000)	Datacube LQ2

Educational attendance (full-time)

Enrolled at secondary or high school or enrolled as a full-time student at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Applicable to 15-24 year olds only.

Data Item	Tables
Attending full-time education	Labour Force, Australia Tables 15, 16 Datacubes LM3, LM3a
-Attending tertiary educational institution full-time	
-Attending school (aged 15-19 years)	
Not attending full-time education	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 03
Attending full-time education	
Not attending full-time education	

Elapsed years since arrival

The number of years since a person first arrived in Australia with the intention of staying for at least one year.

Applies to persons born overseas only.

Data Item	Tables
Elapsed years since arrival	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes LM4, LM7
-Arrived 20 or more years ago	
-Arrived 15-19 years ago	
-Arrived 10-14 years ago	
-Arrived 5-9 years ago	
-Arrived within last 5 years	
-Born in Australia	
-Not stated / Inadequately described / Born at sea	

See 'Country of birth'.

Employed

Persons aged 15 years and over who met one of the following criteria during the reference week:

- Worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (employees and owner managers of incorporated or unincorporated enterprises).
- Worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (contributing family workers).
- Were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job.
- Were owner managers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

See 'Labour force status'.

Employed full-time

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Employed part-time

Includes employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work during the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Employee

An employed person who does not operate their own incorporated or unincorporated enterprise. An employee works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, on a commission basis (with or

without a retainer), tips, piece-rates, or payment in kind.

See 'Status in employment'.

Employee with paid leave entitlements

Includes those who were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave, or both.

Data Item	Tables
Employee with paid leave entitlements	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 13
Employee without paid leave entitlements	Datacubes EQ04, EQ05, EQ07b

Employee without paid leave entitlements

Includes those who were not entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave, or did not know whether they were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave.

See 'Employee with paid leave entitlements'.

Employer

A person who operates their own incorporated or unincorporated enterprise and hires one or more employees.

See 'Status in employment'.

Employment to population ratio

The number of employed persons in a group expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over and part of the same group.

See 'Labour force status'

Engaged in employment and/or study

Persons fully engaged in employment and/or study include:

- persons participating in full-time formal study (including school); and/or
- persons in full-time employment; and/or
- persons participating in part-time formal study (including school) and in part-time employment.

Persons partially engaged in employment and/or study are participating in part-time formal study or in part-time employment only.

The engagement rate is derived as the proportion of those either fully or partially engaged in employment and/or study as a proportion of the population aged 15 years and over.

Data Item	Tables
Engaged in employment and/or study ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 25a, 25b
-Fully engaged in employment and/or study ('000)	
-Partially engaged in employment and/or study ('000)	
Not engaged in either employment or study ('000)	
Engagement rate (%)	
-Fully engaged rate (%)	

Expectations of future employment with current employer or business

Whether or not an employed person expects to be working for their current employer or in their current business in 12 months' time. Reasons are provided for those who do not expect to be with their current employer or business in 12 months.

Applicable to employed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Expects to be with current employer or business in 12 months Does not expect to be with current employer or business in 12 months -Employer or own business closing down or downsizing -Changing jobs or seeking other employment -Returning to study, travelling, or family reasons -Retiring -Seasonal, temporary, fixed contract or casual job -Expects to finish work for other reasons	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 17

Concepts and data items F - K



Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related in some way and are usually resident in the same household.

Families are identified firstly by the presence of either a couple relationship or a parent-child relationship, and then by a different blood relationship. In complex households, a primary family is identified in the first instance (usually a couple and/or a parent-child) and other related members of the household are allocated to the primary family.

Some households contain more than one family, a second family will only be identified in instances where the household has a couple relationship or a parent-child relationship that are not part of the primary family.

Any usual resident of a household is classified as a family member, a non-family member, a visitor (or relationship not determined).

See 'Relationship in household'.

Former worker

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

See 'Industry of last job'.

See 'Occupation of last job'.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC) Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001] Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014] Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current] Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001] Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014] Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO) Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001] Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014] Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current] Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001] Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014] Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b

Full-time employed

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually

working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Full-time workers

See 'Full-time employed'.

Geography

The [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) \(/statistics/statistical-geography/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs\)](#) is used to classify geographical areas of Australia for statistical purposes. In the Labour Force Survey (LFS), geographical areas relate to a person's usual residence, classified according to the ASGS.

The ASGS is constructed of approximately 368,000 mesh blocks covering the whole of Australia. The main structure of the ASGS is a hierarchy of Statistical Areas which are built from whole mesh blocks. Statistical Areas Level 1 to 3 have populations that are too small to support LFS outputs. Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) are the largest sub-state regions. They are specifically designed to perform as the smallest geographical output of LFS data.

Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014).

Geography groupings used in standard outputs include:

- State and territory: ASGS (2011) - state or territory of usual residence during the reference week.
- Greater capital city statistical area: ASGS (2011) - state and territory capital city regions which are aggregates of Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s). Greater capital city statistical areas are presented with the 'rest of state' region to cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The Greater capital city statistical area is named according to the city it represents, for example, Greater Sydney. The remainder of the state or territory is named rest of state/territory, for example, Rest of NSW. The whole of the ACT is included in the Greater Canberra region. Greater Canberra is presented as ACT to prevent confusion. The population of the Greater Darwin area is relatively small so estimates are presented at the territory level only. Also called Greater capital city and rest of state.
- Labour market region (SA4): ASGS (2011) - Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) and the smallest geographical output of LFS data. Labour market regions reflect the labour markets within each state and territory.

Data Item	Tables
State and territory: ASGS (2011)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Greater capital city statistical area: ASGS (2011)	Tables 16, 16b
Labour market region (SA4): ASGS (2011)	Datacubes MRM1, RM1, RM3, RQ1, RQ2
State and territory: ASGS (2011)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Greater capital city statistical area: ASGS (2011)	Table 02
	Datacubes LM1, LM9, EQ03
	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 12, 16, 19, 23, 25
	Datacube GM1
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
	Tables 03, 05, 14c, 20c, 23a, 24a, 25a, 29a
	Datacubes LM1, LM4, LM5, LM7, EM1b, EM2b, EM3b, EM4b, EM5b, UM2, NM2, FM1, EQ02, EQ06, EQ08, UQ2b, UQ3b
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) – Territories only	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 12a, 19a, 23a
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - New South Wales only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 4
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Victoria only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 5
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Queensland only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 6
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - South Australia only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 7
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Western Australia only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 8
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Tasmania only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 9
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Northern Territory only	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 10, 10a
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Australian Capital Territory only	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 11, 11a

Greater capital city and rest of state

State and territory capital city regions are aggregates of Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s). Greater capital city statistical areas are presented with the 'rest of state' region to cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The Greater capital city statistical area is named according to the city it represents, for example, Greater Sydney. The remainder of the state or territory is named rest of state/territory, for example, Rest of NSW. The whole of the ACT is included in the Greater Canberra region. Greater Canberra is presented as ACT to prevent confusion. The population of the Greater Darwin area is relatively small so estimates are presented at the territory level only. Also called Greater capital city and rest of state.

Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0>Main+Features12014).

See 'Geography'.

Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)

See 'Greater capital city and rest of state'.

Gross flows

The LFS sample is made up of eight rotation groups of approximately equal size and characteristics. Each rotation group is in the survey for a period of eight months. Respondents who report in consecutive months make up the matched common sample from which gross flow figures are derived. Gross flows examine the transition between the different labour force status classifications from one point in time to the next.

After taking account of the sample rotation and varying non-response in each month, the matched common sample is approximately 80 percent of the original dataset for any month. For this reason, the figures presented in the gross flows products do not align with published labour force estimates.

The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who did not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – previous month ('000)	

See 'Matched common sample'.

See 'Unmatched sample'.

Has never worked before

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Highest year of school completed (ASCED)

The year a person left school.

Presented for 15-24 year olds only.

Data Item	Tables
Senior Secondary Education Year 12 or equivalent Year 11 Junior Secondary Education Year 10 Year 9 or below/Never attended school	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube LM3a

Hours actually worked

The number of hours a person actually worked during the reference week, which is the week prior to interview.

Actual hours of work refers to a specified reference period (e.g. a week) and includes:

- hours actually worked during normal periods of work;
- time spent in addition to hours worked during normal periods of work (including overtime);
- time spent at the place of work on activities such as the preparation of the workplace, repairs and maintenance, preparation and cleaning of tools, and the preparation of receipts, time sheets and reports;
- time spent by self-employed persons in seeking customers for a product or service (e.g. tendering for contracts, visiting prospective clients);
- time spent at the place of work waiting or standing by due to machinery or process breakdown, accident, lack of supplies, power or internet access, etc;
- time corresponding to short rest periods (resting time) including tea and coffee breaks or prayer breaks;
- travel time connected to work (excluding commuting time);
- training and skills enhancement related to the job or employer; and
- hours worked without paid in a family business or for payment in kind.

Excluded are:

- hours paid for but not worked, such as paid annual leave, public holidays or paid sick leave;
- meal breaks (e.g. lunch breaks);
- paid and unpaid time 'on call';
- time spent on travel to and from work when no productive activity for the job is performed (e.g. commuting time);
- time off during working hours to attend outside educational activities such as university, technical or other college classes; even if it is authorised; and
- unpaid voluntary work.

For multiple job holders the LFS collects a separate measure of actual hours worked in main job and in all jobs.

Data Item	Tables
Hours actually worked in all jobs - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 09, 11, 12, 13 Datacubes EQ02, EQ03, EQ04, EQ05, EQ06, EQ07a, EQ07b, EQ08, EQ09, EQ12, EQ13, EM1a, EM1b, EM2a, EM2b, EM6, EM6a, FM3, RQ1, RQ2
Hours actually worked in all jobs - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 09, 11, 12, 13 Datacubes EM1a, EM1b, EM2a, EM2b, FM3, EQ04
Hours actually worked in main job - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EM4a, EM4b, EQ11
Hours actually worked in main job - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EM4a, EM4b, EQ11

Hours usually worked

Hours usually worked refers to a typical period rather than a specified reference period. The concept of hours usually worked applies both to persons at work and to persons temporarily absent from work. The time includes all regular paid and unpaid overtime.

Data Item	Tables
Hours usually worked in all jobs - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 10 Datacubes EM3a, EM3b, EQ10
Hours usually worked in all jobs - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 10 Datacubes EM3a, EM3b, EQ10
Hours usually worked in main job - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EM5a, EM5b, EQ14
Hours usually worked in main job - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 10 Datacubes EM5a, EM5b, EQ14

Hours worked

See 'Hours actually worked'.

See 'Hours usually worked'.

See 'Monthly hours worked in all jobs' (previously called aggregate hours worked).

Household

A household may be either:

1. a one-person household, i.e. a person who makes provision for his own food and other essentials of living without combining with any other person, or
2. a multi-person household, i.e. a group of two or more persons who make some common provision for food or other essentials of living. The persons in the group may pool their incomes and have a common budget to a greater or lesser extent; they may be related or unrelated persons or a combination of both. The general criterion to be used in identifying the members of a multi-person household relates to the existence of common housekeeping arrangements.

Lodgers who receive accommodation but not meals are treated as separate households.

Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households.

Households are an important operational unit of the LFS. See [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](https://statistics/department/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release).

Incoming rotation group

The LFS sample is made up of eight rotation groups of approximately equal size and characteristics. Each rotation group is in the survey for a period of eight months. Each month a new rotation group enters the sample to replace the rotation group that completed its eighth survey the month before. The new rotation group is called the incoming rotation group.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - previous month ('000)	

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce both goods and services. The [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\) \(/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release\)](#) is used to classify industries in Australia and New Zealand. In the LFS, ANZSIC is used to describe the industry of an employed person's main job or business, or an unemployed person's last job or business.

ANZSIC is a hierarchical classification that provides a broad overall picture of the economy at the division level (1 digit), and increasingly detailed dissections at the subdivision (2 digit), group (3 digit) and class (4 digit) levels. The class level of the ANZSIC classification is not coded or available from the LFS.

Market sector industries include all ANZSIC divisions except for Public administration and safety, Education and training, and Health care and social assistance. These three divisions make up the non-market sector.

Applicable to employed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of main job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 04, 05, 11, 19, 27 Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, RQ1
Industry division and sub-division of main job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 06 Datacube EQ06
Industry division, sub-division and group of main job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube EQ06
Market	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, EQ14, RQ1
-Agriculture, forestry and fishing	
-Rest of market Non-market	
-Education and training	
-Rest of non-market	

Industry of last job

The industry an unemployed person last worked in, classified according to the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\) \(/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release\)](#).

Industry of last job is collected from unemployed persons who have worked in the last 2 years.

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are

presented as part of the Industry of last job variable.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Institutionalised persons

Residents of selected institutions or special dwellings excluding live-in staff who do not usually live in a private dwelling. Institutions include hospitals, homes (including general homes, other hospitals, convalescent homes, homes for the aged, retirement homes, homes for the handicapped and orphanages), and prisons.

'Institutionalised' is presented as a residual category for Reason not in the labour force.

Concepts and data items L - N



Labour force

A person is considered to be economically active if that person contributes or is available and seeking to contribute to the production of goods and services that fall within the System of National Accounts production boundary. The currently economically active population is equivalent to the total labour force, and consists of the total number of persons defined as employed and unemployed. The currently economically active population is measured during a specified short period of time, and in Australia is based on the concept of usual residency of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. The currently economically active population excludes:

- persons under the age of 15 years;
- permanent members of the defence forces;
- short term visitors to Australia; and
- persons not in the labour force.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release).

See 'Labour force status'.

See 'Usual resident'.

Labour force status

Labour Force Status classifies the in-scope population into three mutually exclusive categories at a given point in time: employed; unemployed and not in the labour force. The employed and unemployed categories together make up the labour force, which is a measure of the number of persons contributing to, or willing and able to contribute to, the supply of labour at a specific time. The remaining population is referred to as Not in the labour force. This group represents the balance of the in-scope population.

For detailed description see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-info](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information)

Labour force status in current month

Information about the labour force status of persons in the most recent monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

This population is used in gross flows to show changes between the current month and the month immediately prior to that month. Gross flows information enables analysis of the transition between the different labour force status classifications from one point in time to the next.

The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - current month ('000)	

Labour force status in previous month

Information about the labour force status of persons in the month prior to the current month.

This population is used in gross flows to show changes between the previous month and the current month. Gross flows information enables analysis of the transition between the different labour force status classifications from one point in time to the next.

The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - previous month ('000)	

Labour force underutilisation rate

The sum of the number of unemployed persons and the number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status	Labour Force, Australia Tables 22, 23, 23a
-Employed total ('000)	
-Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
-Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
-Unemployed total ('000)	
-Unemployment rate (%)	
-Labour force total ('000)	
-Underutilisation rate (%)	
Labour force status	Labour Force, Australia Tables 24, 25
-Employed total ('000)	
-Underemployed total ('000)	
---Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
---Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours ('000)	
-Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
-Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
-Unemployed total ('000)	
-Unemployment rate (%)	
-Labour force total ('000)	
-Underutilisation rate (%)	

Labour market region

Labour market regions reflect the labour markets within each state and territory. Labour market regions are equivalent to Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) and are smallest geographical output of LFS data.

The [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+(ASGS)) ([https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+\(ASGS\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+(ASGS))) is used to classify geographical areas of Australia for statistical purposes. In the LFS, geographical areas relate to a person's usual residence, classified according to the ASGS.

The ASGS is constructed of approximately 347,000 mesh blocks covering the whole of Australia. The main structure of the ASGS is a hierarchy of Statistical Areas which are built from whole mesh blocks. Statistical Areas Level 1 to 3 have populations that are too small to support LFS outputs. Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) are the largest sub-state regions of the main structure of the ASGS. They are specifically designed to perform as the smallest geographical output of LFS data. Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014>).

See 'Geography'.

Last worked two or more years ago

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Left last job

Unemployed persons who have worked in the last two years are classified by whether they left or lost their job.

Persons who provided one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as leaving their last job:

- unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours;
- to obtain a better job or conditions;
- the job was a holiday job;
- they left the job to return to studies;
- their last job was running their own business which closed down or was sold, for reasons other than financial difficulties;
- start own or new business;
- family reasons: get married, have children, holidays, caring, move house, spouse transferred; or
- retired.

Persons who provide one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as losing their last job:

- laid off or retrenched from that job;
- left that job because of their own ill-health or injury;
- job was seasonal or temporary;
- they were running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties; or dismissed.

Data Item	Tables
Reason left or lost last job	
-Lost last job	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-Left last job	Datacubes UQ2a, UQ3a.

Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

For more information regarding how Level of highest educational attainment is derived see [Education Variables \(http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS%5Cabs@.nsf/0/CE24579A8895FE78CA25713E0020921B?Opendocument\)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS%5Cabs@.nsf/0/CE24579A8895FE78CA25713E0020921B?Opendocument). It is

categorised according to the [Australian Standard Classification of Education \(ASCED\) \(/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-education-ascad/2001\)](#). Level of education classification.

Data Item	Tables
Postgraduate Degree	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 24a, 24b Datacubes LQ1, LQ2
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
Bachelor Degree	
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
Certificate III/IV	
Year 12 or equivalent	
Year 11	
Year 10	
Below Year 10/No educational attainment	

Lone parent

A person with a parent-child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household, and no husband, wife or partner usually resident in the household. The child may be either dependent or non-dependent. Previously referred to as sole parents.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Long-term unemployed

Persons who have searched for a job for 52 weeks or more are classified as long term unemployed.

Duration of job search is measured by the elapsed number of weeks to the end of the reference week since an unemployed person began looking for work, or since that person last worked, whichever is the shorter. For persons who began looking for work while still employed, it is the period from the time the person last worked to the end of the reference week.

Data Item	Tables
Duration of job search - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14a Datacubes UM2, UM3
-Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks)	
-Average duration of job search (Weeks)	
-Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	
-Under 52 weeks (under 12 months)	
---Under 4 weeks (under 1 month)	
---4 weeks and under 13 weeks (1-3 months)	
---13 weeks and under 26 weeks (3-6 months)	
---26 weeks and under 52 weeks (6-12 months)	
-52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Duration of job search - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube FM4
-Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks)	
-Average duration of job search (Weeks)	
-Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	
-Under 52 weeks (under 12 months)	
-Long-term unemployed	
---52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14b
-Under 52 weeks (under 1 year)	
-Long-term unemployed	
---52 weeks and over (1 year and over)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Duration of job search - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube RM3
-Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks)	
-Average duration of job search (Weeks)	
-Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	
-Under 52 weeks (under 12 months)	
---Under 13 weeks (under 3 months)	
---13 weeks and under 52 weeks (3-12 months)	
-52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	

Long-term unemployment ratio

Persons who have searched for a job for 52 weeks or more are classified as long-term unemployed. The long-term

unemployment ratio is the number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total unemployed population.

Duration of job search is measured by the elapsed number of weeks to the end of the reference week since an unemployed person began looking for work, or since that person last worked, whichever is the shorter. For persons who began looking for work while still employed, it is the period from the time the person last worked to the end of the reference week.

Data Item	Tables
Duration of job search	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14b
-Under 52 weeks (under 1 year)	
-Long-term unemployed	
---52 weeks and over (1 year and over)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Long-term unemployment ratio (%)	

Looking for first job

Unemployed persons who have never worked before are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Lost last job

Unemployed persons who have worked in the last two years are classified by whether they left or lost their job.

Persons who provided one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as leaving their last job:

- unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours;
- to obtain a better job or conditions;
- the job was a holiday job;
- they left the job to return to studies;
- their last job was running their own business which closed down or was sold, for reasons other than financial difficulties;
- start own or new business;
- family reasons: get married, have children, holidays, caring, move house, spouse transferred; or
- retired.

Persons who provide one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as losing their last job:

- laid off or retrenched from that job;
- left that job because of their own ill-health or injury;
- job was seasonal or temporary;
- they were running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties; or dismissed.

Data Item	Tables
Reason left or lost last job	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ3a.
-Lost last job	
-Left last job	

Main English-speaking countries

See 'Country of birth'.

Main job

The job in which the person usually works the most hours. Variables such as industry and occupation are only collected in relation to a person's main job, and not each job they hold.

Major country group (subcontinent) of birth: SACC

See 'Country of birth'

Marital status

See 'Social marital status'.

Market sector and non-market sector

The market sector includes the industries: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity, gas, water and waste services; Construction; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Accommodation and food services; Transport, postal and warehousing; Information media and telecommunications; Financial and insurance services; Rental, hiring and real estate services; Professional, scientific and technical services; Administrative and support services; Arts and recreation services; and Other services.

The non-market sector includes the industries: Education and training; Public administration & safety; and Health care and social assistance.

Industries are grouped into the market or non-market sector at the ANZSIC Division level. For more information see [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/australian-system-national-accounts-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

Data Item	Tables
Market	Labour Force, Australia Table 21
-Agriculture, forestry and fishing	
-Rest of market	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, EQ14, RQ1
Non-market	
-Education and training	
-Rest of non-market	

Matched common sample

Respondents who report in consecutive months make up the matched common sample from which gross flow figures are derived.

After taking account of the sample rotation and varying non-response in each month, the matched common sample

is approximately 80 percent of the original dataset for any month. The figures presented in gross flows do not align with published labour force estimates. The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - previous month ('000)	

See 'Gross flows'.

See 'Unmatched sample'.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs

Monthly hours worked in all jobs measures the total number of actual hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month. Monthly hours worked estimates can be aggregated across time to produce quarterly and annual estimates.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs was previously referred to as aggregate monthly hours worked.

For more information about this measure see: [Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6290.0.55.001Main+Features12009?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6290.0.55.001Main+Features12009?OpenDocument).

See 'Quarterly hours worked in all jobs'

Data Item	Tables
Monthly hours worked in all jobs	Labour Force, Australia Tables 19, 19a
-Monthly hours worked in all jobs (employed full-time)	
-Monthly hours worked in all jobs (employed part-time)	

Non-market sector

The market sector includes the industries: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity, gas, water and waste services; Construction; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Accommodation and food services; Transport, postal and warehousing; Information media and telecommunications; Financial and insurance services; Rental, hiring and real estate services; Professional, scientific and technical services; Administrative and support services; Arts and recreation services; and Other services.

The non-market sector includes the industries: Education and training; Public administration & safety; and Health care and social assistance.

Industries are grouped into the market or non-market sector at the ANZSIC Division level. For more information see [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detail\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detail)

[led-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/australian-system-national-accounts-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\).](#)

Data Item	Tables
Market	Labour Force, Australia
-Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Table 21
-Rest of market	
Non-market	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-Education and training	Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, EQ14, RQ1
-Rest of non-market	

Not in the Labour Force (NILF)

Persons not in the labour force are those persons who were not employed or unemployed during the reference week. For detailed description see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\).](#)

See 'Labour force status'.

Number of months with current employer or business

The elapsed period to the end of the reference week that an employed person has held their main job, that is the job in which a person works the most hours.

Data Item	Tables
Detailed number of months with current employer or business	
-Fewer than 12 months	
-Fewer than 3 months	
--3-5 months	
--6-11 months	
-12 months or more	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
--1-2 years	Datacube EQ02
--3-5 years	
--6-9 years	
--10-19 years	
--20 years or more	
Number of months with current employer or business	
-With current employer or business for fewer than 12 months	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-With current employer or business for 12 months or more	Table 17

Number of weeks searching for a job

Aggregate number of weeks since a currently unemployed person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for two weeks or more, whichever is shorter.

Number of weeks searching for a job was previously referred to as aggregate duration of unemployment.

See 'Duration of job search'.

Concepts and data items O - S



Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation. The [ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument) is a skill-based classification used to classify jobs in the Australian and New Zealand labour markets. In the Labour Force Survey (LFS), ANZSCO is used to describe the occupation of an employed person's current main job or an unemployed person's last job.

ANZSCO is a hierarchical classification that provides a broad overall picture of the labour market at the major (1 digit) level, and increasingly detailed dissections at the sub-major (2 digit), minor (3 digit), unit group (4 digit) and occupation (6 digit) levels. ANZSCO defines a job as a set of tasks performed by one person for an employer

(including self-employment) in return for payment or profit.

Data Item	Tables
Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 07, 12, 19, 28 Datacubes EQ7b, EQ09, EQ13, RQ2
Occupation major and sub-major group of main job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube EQ07a
Occupation major, sub-major, minor and unit group of main job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube EQ08
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b

Occupation of last job

The occupation of an unemployed person's most recent job, classified according to the [ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument).

Occupation of last job is collected from unemployed persons who have worked in the last 2 years.

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Occupation of last job variable.

Data Item	Tables
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

One parent family

See 'Lone parent'.

Original series

Estimates before the seasonal and irregular impacts have been removed. Residual noise, seasonal patterns and the underlying direction of the series make it difficult to compare original series across different points in time.

See 'Seasonally adjusted series'.

See 'Trend series'.

Outgoing rotation group

The LFS sample is made up of eight rotation groups of approximately equal size and characteristics. Each rotation group is in the survey for a period of eight months. Each month a new rotation group enters the sample to replace the rotation group that completed its eighth survey the month before. During its eighth and last month in the survey, a rotation group is called the outgoing rotation group.

Owner Manager of Incorporated Enterprise (OMIE)

A person who operates his or her own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as limited liability company).

An owner manager of an incorporated enterprise (an OMIE) may or may not hire one or more employees in addition

to themselves and/or other owners of that business.

See 'Status in employment'.

Owner Manager of Unincorporated Enterprise (OMUE)

A person who operates his or her own unincorporated enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade.

An owner manager of an unincorporated enterprise may or may not hire one or more employees in addition to themselves and/or other owners of that business.

See 'Status in employment'.

Participation rate

The labour force (employed plus unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

See 'Labour force status'.

Part-time employed

Includes employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Part-time workers

Includes employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Persons ('000)

The number of persons with described characteristics expressed in thousands.

Persons not in the labour force

Persons not in the labour force are those persons who were not employed or unemployed during the reference week. For detailed description see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

See 'Labour force status'.

Quarterly hours worked in all jobs

Quarterly hours worked in all jobs is a three month aggregate of monthly hours worked in all jobs. It shows the total number of actual hours worked by all employed persons in a period of three calendar months.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs was previously referred to as aggregate monthly hours worked. For more information about this measure see: [Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6290.0.55.001Main+Features12009?OpenDocument\)](#).

Data Item	Tables
Quarterly hours worked in all jobs ('000 hours)	Labour Force, Australia Table 21

Reason for unemployment

See 'Reason left or lost last job'.

Reason left or lost last job

Unemployed persons who have worked in the last two years are classified by whether they left or lost their job.

Persons who provided one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as leaving their last job:

- unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours;
- to obtain a better job or conditions;
- the job was a holiday job;
- they left the job to return to studies;
- their last job was running their own business which closed down or was sold, for reasons other than financial difficulties;
- start own or new business;
- family reasons: get married, have children, holidays, caring, move house, spouse transferred; or
- retired.

Persons who provide one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as losing their last job:

- laid off or retrenched from that job;
- left that job because of their own ill-health or injury;
- job was seasonal or temporary;
- they were running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties; or
- dismissed.

Data Item	Tables
Reason left or lost last job	
-Lost last job	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-Left last job	Datacubes UQ2a, UQ3a

Reason not in the labour force

A person's reason for not participating in the labour force.

Applicable only to persons not in the labour force. Persons classified as not in the labour force are those persons who were not employed or unemployed during the reference week.

Data Item	Tables
Reason not in the labour force	
-Waiting to start work, unavailable to start, but starting work in less than four weeks [1991-2001]	
-Waiting to start work in 4 weeks or more [1991-2001]	
-Actively looked for work but unavailable to start [1991-2001]	
-Actively looked for work, unavailable to start, but available in next four weeks	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-Actively looked for work but unavailable to start in next four weeks	Datacubes NM1, NM2
-Passively looked for work	
-Did not look for work	
-Permanently not intending to work (aged 65 and over)	
-Permanently unable to work	
-Institutionalised	
-At boarding school	

Reference week

LFS data are obtained by interview (with an interviewer face-to-face or over the telephone, or through an online questionnaire). Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of each month. Most data obtained relates to the week before the interview, this is referred to as the

reference week.

The reference week is not an output in LFS standard products. It is used as a mechanism to help respondents answer questions appropriately, and as a reference point to determine if a person was available to start work during a discrete period of time. This is important in determining if a person without work is unemployed or if they are not in the labour force. For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-releases\)](https://statistics.detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-releases).

Relationship in household

Describes the relationship of each person residing within the same household.

Data Item	Tables
Family member	
-Husband, wife or partner	
--Husband, wife or partner with dependants	
----Husband, wife or partner with children under 15	
----Husband, wife or partner with no children under 15 and with dependent students	
--Husband, wife or partner without dependants	
----Husband, wife or partner with non-dependent children only	
----Husband, wife or partner without children	
-Lone parent	
--Lone parent with dependants	
----Lone parent with children under 15	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14e
----Lone parent with no children under 15 and with dependent students	Datacubes FM1, FM2, FM3, FM4
--Lone parent without dependants	
----Lone parent with non-dependent children only	
-Dependent student	
-Non-dependent child	
-Other related individual	
Non-family member	
-Non-family member lone person	
-Non-family member not living alone	
Visitor	
Relationship not determined	

Residual categories and supplementary codes

Residual categories in a classification are labelled Not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.), Not elsewhere included (n.e.i.), Other or Miscellaneous.

These categories are necessary because although in a classification meaningful categories are created through the application of certain criteria, not all observations can be classified into a homogeneous group, or the size of the observations does not allow them to be separately identified.

Supplementary codes are used to process inadequately described responses. Not Further Defined codes (n.f.d., sometimes referred to as Undefined codes) are used to process incomplete, non-specific or imprecise responses which cannot be coded to the most detailed level of a classification structure. For example, birthplace responses relating to places which cannot be identified as lying within the boundaries of a country separately identified in the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\) \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release), but which lie wholly within the boundaries of one of the classification's Minor Groups, are coded to that Minor Group.

It is important to note the distinction between Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC) categories and Not Further Defined (NFD) codes. NEC categories are a formal part of a classification's structure, designed to make a classification complete and exhaustive of all observations in scope. Adequately described, specific responses are coded to NEC categories in instances where a suitable substantive category is not included in the classification. As explained above, NFD codes are designed to facilitate processing by allowing inadequately described or non-specific responses to be coded to a broader level of the classification rather than be lost altogether. NFD codes are not a formal part of the classification.

Other supplementary codes are also provided in classifications, for operational purposes, to facilitate the coding of responses to:

- Inadequately Described - where a response contains insufficient information to be coded to any level of the classification;
- Not Stated - where no response is provided; and
- Not Applicable - where the question does not apply to the person and so no response is required.

Retrenchment

Includes retrenchment occurring in any job held in the three months prior to the survey reference week, not just the last job, and irrespective of a person's current labour force status. This item is measured by the total number of persons who ceased a job during the last three months because they were either:

1. Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, no work was available; or
2. Self-employed persons whose business closed down for economic reasons, including went broke, liquidated, no work, no supply or demand.

Data Item	Tables
Retrenched (in previous quarter)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 29a, 29b
Employed total (previous quarter)	
Retrenchment rate	

Seasonally adjusted series

Seasonally adjusted estimates refer to original data that has had seasonal patterns removed. They contain residual noise and irregular influences that may be present in the underlying data. For very volatile series this makes it very difficult to compare seasonally adjusted movements at different points in time. Seasonally adjusted estimates are revised as new estimates become available.

See 'Original series'.

See 'Trend series'.

Sex

Demographic variable describing the male/female classification of the sex of a person.

Data Item	Tables
Persons -Males -Females	Labour Force, Australia Tables 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10a, 11, 11a, 12, 12a, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 23a, 24, 25 Datacube GM1
	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 01, 02, 03, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 14a, 14b, 16, 16b, 17, 19, 20b, 23a, 23b, 24b, 25b, 29b
	Datacubes LM1, LM3, LM3a, LM4, LM5, LM7, LM9, EQ02, EQ03, EQ04, EQ06, EQ07a, EQ08, EQ09, RQ1, RQ2, EM1a, EM2a, EM3a, EM4a, EM5a, EM6, EM6a, RM1, FM1, UQ2a, UQ3a NM1

Social marital status

A presence or absence of marriage for any person. The marriage may be registered or de facto.

Data Item	Tables
Married	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 01
Not married	
	Datacube LM1

Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)

See 'Country of birth'.

State and territory

This refers to State or territory of usual residence during the reference week.

Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0>Main+Features12014).

See 'Geography'.

Statistical Area level 4 (SA4)

The [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) \(/statistics/statistical-geography/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs\)](https://statistics/statistical-geography/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs) is used to classify geographical areas of Australia for statistical purposes. In the LFS, geographical areas relate to a person's usual residence, classified according to the ASGS.

The ASGS is constructed of approximately 347,000 mesh blocks covering the whole of Australia. The main structure of the ASGS is a hierarchy of Statistical Areas which are built from whole mesh blocks. Statistical Areas Level 1 to 3 have populations that are too small to support LFS outputs. Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) are the largest sub-state regions. They are specifically designed to perform as the smallest geographical output of LFS data. Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented, old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6262.0/\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6262.0/).

Labour market regions are equivalent to Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) and are smallest geographical output of LFS data.

See 'Geography'.

Status in employment

Status in employment is determined by an employed person's position in relation to their job, and is usually collected in respect of a person's main job if they hold more than one job. Employed persons are classified according to the reported relationship between the person and the enterprise for which they work, together with the legal status of the enterprise where this can be established. The groups include:

- Employee with paid leave entitlements,
- Employee without paid leave entitlements,
- Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) with employees,
- Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) without employees,
- Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise (OMUE) with employees,
- Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise (OMUE) without employees, and
- Contributing family workers.

Applicable to employed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Employee	
Owner manager of incorporated enterprise	
-Owner manager of incorporated enterprise with employees	
-Owner manager of incorporated enterprise without employees	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 08
Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise	
-Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees	
-Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise without employees	Datacubes EM6, EM6a
Contributing family worker	
Employee	
-with paid leave entitlements	
-without paid leave entitlements	
Owner manager of incorporated enterprise with employees	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 13
Owner manager of incorporated enterprise without employees	
Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees	
Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise without employees	Datacubes EQ04, EQ05, EQ07b
Contributing family worker	

Concepts and data items T - Z



Trend series

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. The trend estimate indicates the underlying level of the series and is directly comparable at different points in time. Trend estimates are revised as new original or seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

See 'Original series'.

See 'Seasonally adjusted series'.

Underemployed workers

Employed persons aged 15 years and over who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They include:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey, or
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these persons wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2023/concepts-and-sources/underutilised-labour#definitions-used-in-abs-surveys\)](#).

Data Item	Tables
Employed total ('000)	
Underemployed total ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	Labour Force, Australia
Unemployed total ('000)	Tables 22, 23, 23a
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	
Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
-Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours) ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	Labour Force, Australia
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	Tables 24, 25
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	
Underemployed ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 19
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	

Underemployment ratio

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Data Item	Tables
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 22, 23, 23a
Underemployed total ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 24, 25
Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
-Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours) ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 19
Underemployed ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	

Underutilisation rate

The sum of the number of unemployed persons and the number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Data Item	Tables
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 22, 23, 23a
Underemployed total ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 24, 25
Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
-Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours) ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployed looked for full-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work; or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Data Item	Tables
Unemployed looked for full-time work ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 24, 25
-Unemployed looked for only full-time work ('000)	
-Unemployed looked for both full-time and part-time work ('000)	

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployed looked for only part-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only; or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployed persons classified by industry and occupation

See 'Industry of last job'.

See 'Occupation of last job'.

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total labour force in the same group.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployment rate looked for full-time work

The number of unemployed persons who looked for full-time work expressed as a percentage of the full-time labour force.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployment rate looked for only part-time work

The number of unemployed persons who looked for only part-time work expressed as a percentage of the part-time labour force.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unmatched common sample

The unmatched common sample consists of respondents from households who were part of the seven common rotation groups for the current and previous month (i.e. not part of the incoming group), but for whom a response was obtained in the current but not the previous month, or vice versa. This may be due to, for example, new or different persons residing in the same household, or the same respondent from a household being unable to be contacted in the current or previous month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
-Employed full-time ('000)	
-Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
-Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – previous month ('000)	

See 'Incoming rotation group'.

See 'Outgoing rotation group'.

See 'Unmatched sample'.

Unmatched sample

The unmatched sample for a particular month identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

The total unmatched sample consists of distinct two groups:

- the incoming rotation group, and
- the unmatched common sample.

In considering the contribution of the unmatched sample, different sample components will be relevant to the analysis. If the contribution to growth between months is being determined, the difference between the outgoing and incoming rotation groups, as well as differences in the unmatched common sample, will be relevant. If the analysis is focussed on a particular level estimate for a given month, only the incoming rotation group and the unmatched common sample which is new to sample for the month will be of interest.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
-Employed full-time ('000)	
-Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
-Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - previous month ('000)	

See 'Incoming rotation group'

See 'Outgoing rotation group'

See 'Unmatched common sample'

Usual hours worked

See 'Hours usually worked'

Usual resident

The scope of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is limited to persons who are usual residents of Australia. This scope is consistent with the measurement of Australia's Estimated Resident Population (ERP), the official measure of the population of Australia, which is also based on the concept of usual residence.

Usual residency refers to all persons, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. In calculating ERP, the ABS employs a '12/16 month rule' where the traveller can be added to, or subtracted from, ERP if they have stayed in, or been absent from, Australia for a period of 12 months or more, over a 16 month period. This 12 month period does not have to be continuous. Travellers who arrive in Australia for a holiday or a short stay are not counted as part of the resident population, and conversely those who leave for short periods are not excluded.

In practise, the "12/16" month rule is applied in the LFS by determining if a survey respondent who was born overseas, and has been in Australia for less than 12 months, intends to stay in Australia for a period of 12 months or longer.

There are generally two approaches for analysing data related to labour underutilisation - headcount (number of persons) and volume measures (based on hours). While headline measures of unemployment and underemployment usually relate to headcounts, the hours measures provide further information important for analysing the labour market.

Specifically, volume measures relate to the unused potential hours of labour in comparison to the hours usually worked by employed persons. They are relevant for analysing the spare capacity of the labour force, as they take into account the number of hours sought and additional hours preferred by individuals whose labour is not fully utilised.

Underutilised hours of labour are comprised of:

- for unemployed persons: the number of hours of work sought;
- for part-time underemployed persons: the number of additional hours preferred; and
- for full-time underemployed persons (i.e. full-time employed persons who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons): the difference between the number of hours usually worked and actually worked in the reference week.

The total potential hours in the labour force is the sum of the hours usually worked by all employed persons, plus the number of hours of underutilised labour as described above.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2023/concepts-and-sources/underutilised-labour#definitions-used-in-abs-surveys\).](#)

Data Item	Tables
Number of additional hours preferred or hours not worked by underemployed ('000 Hours)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 23a, 23b
Volume measure of underemployment rate (%)	
Number of hours sought by unemployed ('000 Hours)	
Volume measure of unemployment rate (%)	
Number of potential hours in the labour force ('000 Hours)	
Volume measure of underutilisation rate (%)	

Year of arrival

See 'Elapsed years since arrival'

Detailed output information

The detailed output, including the data items contained within each pre-prepared spreadsheet available for download, is shown below.

Labour Force, Australia outputs



Tables

- Table 1. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 4. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 5. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 6. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 7. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 8. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 9. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 10. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original
- Table 10a. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 11. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original
- Table 11a. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 12. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 12a. Labour force status by Sex, Territory - Seasonally adjusted

Table 13. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 15. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance (full-time) and Sex

Table 16. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)

Table 17. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 18. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 19. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted

Table 19a. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and Territory - Seasonally adjusted

Table 21. Quarterly hours worked in all jobs by Market and Non-market sector - Seasonally adjusted

Table 22. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 23. Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 23a. Underutilised persons by Territory and Sex - Seasonally adjusted

Table 24. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex (expanded analytical series)

Table 25. Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex (expanded analytical series)

Datacubes

Datacube GM1 - Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and territory, February 1991 onwards

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed outputs



Tables

Table 01 - Labour force status by age, social marital status and sex

Table 02 - Labour force status by state, territory, greater capital city, rest of state (ASGS) and sex

Table 03 - Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time) and sex and by state, territory and educational attendance (full-time)

Table 04 – Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) - Trend, Seasonally adjusted, and Original

Table 05 – Employed persons by State, Territory and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC)

Table 06 – Employed persons by Industry sub-division of main job (ANZSIC) and Sex

Table 07 – Employed persons by Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Sex

Table 08 - Employed persons by Status in employment of main job and Sex

Table 09 - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs and sex

Table 10 - Employed persons by hours usually worked in all jobs and sex

Table 11 – Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) and Hours actually worked in all jobs

Table 12 – Employed persons by Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Hours actually worked in all jobs

Table 13 – Employed persons by Status in employment of main job and Hours actually worked in all jobs

Table 14a - Unemployed persons by duration of job search and sex

Table 14b - Unemployed persons by duration of job search and sex - trend, seasonally adjusted and original

Table 14c - Median duration of job search by state, territory and duration of job search

Table 14d - Median duration of job search by age and duration of job search

Table 14e - Median duration of job search by relationship in household and duration of job search

Table 16 - Labour force status by labour market region (ASGS) and sex

Table 16b - Labour force status by labour market region (ASGS) and sex, annual averages of the previous 12 months

Table 16c – Median duration of job search by labour market region (ASGS) and duration of job search

Table 17 – Employed persons by Expectations of future employment and Number of months with current employer or in own business

Table 19 – Underemployed persons by Industry division (ANZSIC) or Occupation major group (ANZSCO) of main job and Sex

Table 20a - Unemployed persons who looked for full-time and part-time work by age

Table 20b - Unemployed persons who looked for full-time and part-time work by sex

Table 20c - Unemployed persons who looked for full-time and part-time work by state and territory

Table 23a – Volume measures of underutilisation by State, Territory and Sex

Table 23b – Volume measures of underutilisation by Age and Sex

Table 24a – Labour Force status by State, Territory, and Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)

Table 24b – Labour Force status for 20-64 year olds by Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED) and Sex

Table 25a – Labour force status by State, Territory and Educational attendance (detailed)

Table 25b – Labour Force status for 15-29 year olds by Age, Educational attendance (detailed) and Sex

Table 29a – Retrenchment by Labour force status, State and Territory

Table 29b – Retrenchment by Labour force status and by Age and Sex

Datacubes

Datacube LM1 - Labour force status by age, greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS), marital status and sex, February 1978 onwards

Datacube LM3 - Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time), sex and year left school, April 1986 onwards

Datacube LM3a - Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time), highest year of school completed (ASCED) and sex, July 2014 onwards

Datacube LM4 - Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), sex, state and territory, January 1991 onwards

Datacube LM5 - Labour force status by age, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), and sex, January 1991 onwards

Datacube LM7 - Labour force status by elapsed years since arrival, main English-speaking countries, sex, state and territory, January 1991 onwards

Datacube LM9 - Labour force status by age (detailed), greater capital city and rest of state (ASGS) and sex, January 1991 onwards

Datacube LQ1 – Labour Force status by Age, Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED) and Sex, August 2015 onwards

Datacube LQ2 – Labour Force status by Age, Educational attendance (detailed) and Sex, August 2015 onwards

Datacube EQ02 – Employed persons by Number of months with current employer or business, Sex, State and Territory, May 2001 onwards

Datacube EQ03 – Employed persons by Greater Capital City and Rest of State (ASGS), Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) and Sex, November 1984 onwards

Datacube EQ04 – Employed persons by Hours actually worked in all jobs, Sex and Status in employment of main job, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table)

Datacube EQ05 – Employed persons by Industry division (ANZSIC) and Status in employment of main job, February 1991 onwards (Pivot Table)

Datacube EQ06 – Employed persons by Industry group of main job (ANZSIC), Sex, State and Territory, November 1984 onwards

Datacube EQ07a – Employed persons by Age, Occupation sub-major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Sex, August 1986 onwards

Datacube EQ07b – Employed persons by Occupation major group (ANZSCO) and Status in employment of main job, February 1991 onwards

Datacube EQ08 – Employed persons by Occupation unit group of main job (ANZSCO), Sex, State and Territory, August 1986 onwards

Datacube EQ09 – Employed persons by Industry division (ANZSIC) and Occupation major group (ANZSCO) of main job and Sex, August 1986 onwards

Datacube EQ10 – Employed persons by Hours usually worked in all jobs and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), May 2001 onwards

Datacube EQ11 – Employed persons by Hours actually worked and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), May 2001 onwards

Datacube EQ12 – Employed persons by Age and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), November 1984 onwards

Datacube EQ13 – Employed persons by Age and Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO), August 1986 onwards

Datacube EQ14 – Employed persons by Hours usually worked and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), August 2014 onwards

Datacube EM1a - Employed persons by age, hours actually worked in all jobs and sex, January 1991 onwards

Datacube EM1b - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs, state and territory, January 1991 onwards

Datacube EM2a - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by Age, Hours actually worked in all jobs and Sex, January 1991 onwards

Datacube EM2b - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by hours actually worked in all jobs, state and territory, January 1991 onwards

Datacube EM3a - Employed persons by age, hours usually worked in all jobs and sex, April 2001 onwards

Datacube EM3b - Employed persons by hours usually worked in all jobs, state and territory, April 2001 onwards

Datacube EM4a - Employed persons by age, hours actually worked in main job and sex, April 2001 onwards

Datacube EM4b - Employed persons by hours actually worked in main job, state and territory, April 2001 onwards

Datacube EM5a - Employed persons by age, hours usually worked in main job and sex, July 2014 onwards

Datacube EM5b - Employed persons by hours usually worked in main job, state and territory, July 2014 onwards

Datacube EM6 - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs, sex and status in employment of main job, January 1991 onwards

Datacube EM6a - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs, sex, status in employment of main job, and state, January 1991

Datacube UM2 - Unemployed persons by duration of job search, state and territory, January 1991 onwards

Datacube UM3 - Unemployed persons by age and duration of job search, January 1991 onwards

Datacube UQ2a - Unemployed persons by Industry division of last job (ANZSIC), Reason left or lost last job and Sex, February 1991 onwards

Datacube UQ2b - Unemployed persons by Industry division of last job (ANZSIC), State and Territory, February 1991 onwards

Datacube UQ3a - Unemployed persons by Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO), Reason left or lost last job and Sex, February 1991 onwards

Datacube UQ3b - Unemployed persons by Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO), State and Territory, February 1991 onwards

Datacube MRM1 - Modelled estimates of labour force status, by SA4 (ASGS)

Datacube RM1 - Labour force status by age, labour market region (ASGS) and sex, October 1998 onwards

Datacube RM3 - Unemployed persons by duration of job search and labour market region (ASGS), July 1991 onwards

Datacube RQ1 - Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC), Labour market region (ASGS) and Sex, Annual averages of the preceding four quarters, Year to August 1999 onwards

Datacube RQ2 - Employed persons by Labour market region (ASGS), Occupation major group (ANZSCO) and Sex, Annual averages of the preceding four quarters, Year to August 1999 onwards

Datacube FM1 - Labour force status by relationship in household, sex, state and territory, January 1991 onwards

Datacube FM2 - Labour force status by age and relationship in household, January 1991 onwards

Datacube FM3 - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs and relationship in household, January 1991 onwards

Datacube FM4 - Unemployed persons by duration of job search and relationship in household, January 1991 onwards

Datacube NM1 - Persons not in the labour force (NILF) by age, reason not in the labour force and sex, January 1991 onwards

Datacube NM2 - Persons not in the labour force (NILF) by reason not in the labour force, state and territory, January 1991 onwards

Data items

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Data Items by Table - Labour Force, Australia

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Data Items by Table - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed

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Data Items by Datacube (pivot tables) - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6103.0.



[Home](#) > [Statistics](#) > [Understanding statistics](#) > [Guide to labour statistics](#) > [Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product](#)

Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product

Guide to labour statistics

Explanatory notes providing information about the Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product, and how to use it.

Released 18/03/2025

Sections

▼ [Guide to labour statistics](#)

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[About labour statistics](#)

▶ [Earnings guide](#)

▶ [Gender pay gap guide](#)

[Industry employment guide](#)

[Regional labour market data guide](#)

[Hours worked guide](#)

▼ [Labour Force Survey products guide](#)

[Labour Force Survey concepts and data item guide](#)

[Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product](#)

On this page

[Introduction](#)

[Scope and coverage](#)

[Data items](#)

[Scheduled updates](#)

[Safe data treatments](#)

[Usage tips and duplicate links](#)

[Linkage and bias](#)

[Limitations for longitudinal linkage](#)

[References and resources](#)

[Contact us](#)

Close

Introduction

Official employment and unemployment estimates are available from [Labour Force, Australia \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release\)](#). To complement these official estimates of employment and unemployment, ABS also produces a microdata product (available in ABS DataLab to approved

users) which links the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA). This linked LFS-PLIDA product, also known as the LFS PLIDA Modular Product (PMP), enables in-depth analysis of LFS data integrated with administrative datasets including health, education, government payments and taxation data. The LFS module in PLIDA contains monthly data from June 2023 onwards.

Given the nature of this linked dataset, it is not possible to replicate official employment and unemployment estimates, so data from the PMP should not be used to produce nor replicate official estimates. Any analysis or conclusions drawn from the linked LFS data should acknowledge the potential and, where possible, actual impact of bias on the interpretation of results. The data available in PLIDA are not market sensitive.

The monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over.

The LFS sample is designed and selected primarily to provide accurate estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory. The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey since 1960, initially as a quarterly survey. In February 1978, the frequency of the survey was changed from quarterly to monthly.

Households within selected dwellings are interviewed each month for eight months, with one-eighth of the sample being replaced each month. Information is obtained either by trained interviewers or through self-completion online. More detailed information about the LFS is available on the [Labour Force, Australia methodology \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology) page of the ABS website.

DataLab researchers may request access to the LFS module commencing January 2026.

Scope and coverage

The LFS surveys approximately 24,000 households each month which is equivalent to around 50,000 individuals.

The scope of the LFS is the resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 years and over, it excludes:

- Members of the permanent Australian defence forces
- Certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments
- Overseas residents in Australia
- Members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia

The LFS uses administrative data in place of directly-collected responses for certain difficult to enumerate segments of the Australian population, consequently LFS data present in the PLIDA Modular Product also excludes populations living in:

- very remote areas
- non-private dwellings (e.g. prisons and care homes).

The LFS applies coverage rules to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is designed to survey the same household for eight consecutive months. However, individuals can move in and out of the LFS sample for several reasons, for example if they:

- do not complete the survey in a given month,
- are visiting the selected dwelling,
- move house permanently.

Data items

The LFS module consists of data obtained from the monthly survey. Survey month acts as a structural element. The monthly datasets can be joined to each other, and to the Spine, using linkage keys (see [Usage Tips and Duplicate Links \(#usage-tips-and-duplicate-links\)](#)).

Individual respondents to the LFS can be observed for up to eight months, making the data suitable for use in analysis of cross sections, pooled cross sections and short panels. Each month, approximately 6,000 individuals are added to the survey's sample as new rotation groups are enumerated.

On average, each cross section has approximately 48,000 observations. Each cross section is used separately to produce the headline LFS statistics. The unit record weights provided with the LFS module are those used to produce the published LFS statistics.

The weights in the LFS module do not aggregate to the population, and will not produce results comparable to published estimates due to the exclusion of out-of-coverage populations (i.e. residents of very remote areas and non-private dwellings).

This is further impacted, when interpreting estimates produced from linked records, due to the limitations inherent in linking data. No adjustments are made to the included weights to adjust for sample that cannot be linked. More information on the limitations and consequences of the linkage process is included in [Usage Tips and Duplicate Links \(#usage-tips-and-duplicate-links\)](#), [Linkage and Bias \(#linkage-and-bias\)](#), and [Limitations for Longitudinal Linkage \(#limitations-for-longitudinal-linkage\)](#).

For more information about weighting and population benchmarking for the purposes of producing headline estimates, refer to the [Labour Force, Australia methodology \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology\)](#) page.

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey are predominantly based on individual records. However, hierarchical characteristics, such as items related to households and families, are attributed to each person record.

For variable and value descriptions, refer to the LFS PMP Data Item List.

LFS PMP Data Item List

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[49.69 KB]

[\(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/labour-force-survey-plida-linked-microdata-product/PLIDA%20Data%20Supply%20DIL%20-%20LFS.xlsx\)](#)

Scheduled updates

When new LFS data becomes available, the LFS module will undergo an incremental update. This occurs monthly, with a new month of data available in PLIDA around one week after the release of [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release\)](#). Unit weights for records in previous months' data will be revised each quarter consistent with the population benchmarking process for the LFS.

Safe data treatments

More information about safe data treatments is available within DataLab in the PLIDA Modular Product User Guide. However, the following steps were taken to treat the LFS data.

- The LFS person identifier is replaced with an anonymised PLIDA person ID SYNTHETIC_AEUID.

- The LFS household and dwelling identifiers HHID and DWELLID are anonymised.
- Detailed hours worked data items have been top coded to 99+ hours, this affects:
 - hours actually worked (HRAWMJ2)
 - hours usually worked (HRUWAJ99)
 - hours usually worked in main job (MUSLHRFX99)
 - hours actually worked in all jobs last week (WKD HOUR2)
 - number of hours preferred (underemployed) (PREFHOUR99)

Usage tips and duplicate links

General advice on working with PLIDA modules is available within DataLab in the PLIDA Modular Product User Guide.

ID Variables

The following table lists all ID variables present in the LFS module. These identifiers can be used to join information across monthly tables in the LFS module, and to identify relationships between LFS respondents. SYNTHETIC_AEUID can be used as the linkage key to link LFS to the PLIDA Spine via linkage files available in DataLab.

Key	Entity Type	Other PMP modules that use this key
SYNTHETIC_AEUID	LFS respondent identifier	N/A
HHID	Household identifier	N/A
DWELLID	Dwelling identifier	N/A

Records not linked to the Spine

When using the LFS module, you may encounter records which do not correspond to a Spine element (SPINE_ID = NULL). This can occur for the following reasons:

- Incomplete or inaccurate personal information was provided for the LFS respondent. For example, a respondent may decline to provide their first and/or last name, or their date of birth.
- Inconsistent information between the LFS and the Spine. For example, the respondent may have recently changed residential address.
- Absence from the Spine. The LFS respondent may not appear in the datasets used to form the Spine.

Duplicate links to the Spine

No statistical linkage process is perfect. In some rare instances, multiple SYNTHETIC_AEUIDs may be linked to a single SPINE_ID. Theoretically, this represents the linkage of multiple different LFS respondents to the same person represented on the Spine. However, in many of these instances a single LFS respondent is erroneously represented by multiple SYNTHETIC_AEUIDs.

In some (but not all) instances, apparent duplicate records are appropriate for use and should not necessarily be excluded from analysis. However, where apparent duplicate records cause inexplicable results, we advise removing all applicable records or using only the earliest instance of a record impacted by duplication (i.e. from the first survey month in which the record appears).

Broadly, the duplicate links can be categorised into two groups based on whether the root cause is on the survey side, or due to the PLIDA linkage method and/or spine creation.

The majority of the apparent duplicate links are a result of limitations with the LFS survey design, processing or responses. NB: These limitations affect only the quality of the linkage and not the published LFS estimates.

LFS-based duplicates

Duplicates may be observed when analysing a single month's LFS dataset for the following reasons:

1. Changes in household composition over time.

- Where an individual is not continuously in sample (i.e. they move into and out of a dwelling, or they change between being a visitor to and resident of a dwelling) they may be assigned a different person number within a household at different points in time. Where that occurs, they will be assigned multiple identifiers (which appear as SYNTHETIC_AEUIDs in PLIDA) over their time in sample.
- Additionally, a new resident or visitor in the dwelling may be assigned a vacant, but previously assigned, person number. This can result in the re-use of an LFS identifier over a dwelling's time-in-sample. After the first month-in, the LFS-PLIDA linkage method matches on the LFS identifier (i.e. the method assumes the persistent use of LFS identifiers). Subsequently, this can result in multiple different people being linked to the same Spine record within a given month.

2. Very rarely, errors in the way individual respondents are enumerated in the survey.

- Where a respondent completes the survey incorrectly it is possible for an individual to be enumerated more than once within the same month. This will appear as multiple SYNTHETIC_AEUIDs being linked to a single Spine entity).

Duplicate links may be observed when analysing multiple months of LFS datasets:

1. For the same reasons as for a single month. In particular, changes in household composition are more prevalent when analysing across multiple months than for any single month in isolation.
2. Additionally, apparent duplicate links may occur where the same person has continued to complete the survey after changing address, or an individual has been re-selected in the survey at a later date.

Where duplicate records are observed in the data for more than 8 months, and for discussion of issues specific to longitudinal analysis, please refer to [Limitations for Longitudinal Linkage \(#limitations-for-longitudinal-linkage\)](#).

PLIDA-based duplicates

Instances of duplicate links as a result of PLIDA processes are very rare with only a handful of examples across the 90,000+ unique records linked between LFS and the PLIDA Spine (as of December 2025).

Within a given month, they may occur:

- Where the linkage method identifies that two individual respondents are the same person. There are legitimate instances where this occurs but there is also error associated with this process, for example, twins living at the same address and who have very similar names may be erroneously linked to the same Spine entity.
- Due to Spine dataset imperfections, for example, where information from multiple unique people is intertwined in the formation of a single Spine entity resulting in links being found to multiple LFS respondents.

Across different time periods, duplicate links may exist:

- Where different LFS respondents have similar characteristics and consequently are each linked to the same single Spine entity.

Linkage and bias

Linkage

The LFS data from June 2023 to November 2023 are linked to the Spine using deterministic linkage methods. LFS data from December 2023 onwards are linked to the Spine using probabilistic linkage methods, see [Person Linkage Spine \(/about/data-services/data-integration/person-linkage-spine\)](#). Monthly linkage reports are available within DataLab and provide information on linkage rates and missingness rates for key linkage variables.

Any analysis or conclusions drawn from the linked LFS data should acknowledge the potential and, where possible, actual impact of bias on the interpretation of results.

Bias in linked data

When looking at aggregate statistics derived from linked observations it is important to be aware of bias and to attempt to control for it where possible. Separating bias from standard error is difficult, particularly for estimates from small samples where the variability inherent in the estimate can be large relative to the size of the estimate.

The Labour Household Surveys section of the ABS conducted comparative analysis of the labour market characteristics of the LFS sample pre and post linkage for data collected between June 2023 and June 2025. This analysis may be helpful in understanding some of the limitations of and biases present in the linked data.

For the unemployment rate, there is bias downwards for the linked group. This bias is broadly consistent across the characteristics chosen for analysis.

For the employment to population ratio, in aggregate there is no clear bias for the linked group. However, this is largely due to offsetting differences. For example, most age groups have a higher rate of employment in the linked group than the unlinked group, with a notable exception being the group aged 65 and over. There are also notable differences in the bias by sex, state of usual residence, relationship in the household and country of birth.

For the share of hours worked by people employed full-time, there is some similarity with the employment to population ratio. In aggregate there is no clear bias between the two groups, but this is largely due to offsetting differences present in many of the demographic subgroups, including: sex, country of birth, state of usual residence and age group.

Researchers should exercise caution when interpreting results from the linked LFS data and should not assume the linked data is representative of the full LFS sample. Re-weighting the linked LFS data may increase its representativeness, however, the ABS is not currently offering advice on re-weighting approaches for LFS data.

Unemployment rate

The LFS sample that has been successfully linked to the PLIDA Spine (referred to here as the linked group) is less unemployed than the LFS sample where no link to the PLIDA Spine has been found (referred to as the unlinked group), and is consequently less unemployed than the full LFS sample.

This means that any conclusions drawn from linked data will understate unemployment. In 24 of the 25 months, the unemployment rate from the linked group was lower than the unlinked group, with the difference being statistically significant for 16 of those 24 months.

This difference can be understood, in part, by demographic characteristics such as the age profile of linked respondents, for example:

The linked group has a lower share of 15-24 year old people than the unlinked group, and young people tend to have a higher rate of unemployment than other ages. Combined, this explains part of the observed difference. The lower linkage rates for young people may be a result of:

- greater mobility, resulting in geographical missingness/timing inconsistencies
- generational attitudes to sharing personal information, resulting in missing or inaccurate names, sex or ages and dates of birth
- delayed enrolment in administrative programs that form the PLIDA Spine.

Other demographic characteristics were also analysed to help understand the lower unemployment rate in the linked group:

- Sex: The difference in unemployment for women was more prevalent than for men: unlinked women were more unemployed than men relative to their respective linked populations, i.e. there's a more frequent bias in the unemployment rate for women than there is for men.

- State/territory: Significant differences between the linked and unlinked group were observed across states and territories. The more populous states showed the greatest number of significant differences, with all significant differences showing the linked group with lower unemployment than the unlinked group.
- Relationship in household: Household relationships did not tend to exhibit significant differences in the unemployment rate between the linked and unlinked groups, except in the case of more populous relationship types. In particular, those who were a spouse/partner or a child of someone else in the household were less unemployed in the linked group. This was most prevalent for spouses/partners. Conversely, the linked group was more unemployed than the unlinked group for visitors, unrelated individuals and male same-sex partners, but only when the groups were combined across the entire time period (individual periods had sample sizes too small to draw accurate conclusions).
- The following variables were considered but did not result in significant differences that were consistent across time periods:
 - year of arrival
 - country of birth.

Employment to population ratio

The rate of employment relative to the population, varies between the linked and unlinked group. Of the 25 periods analysed, the linked group had a significantly higher rate of employment than the unlinked group for 9 months and significantly lower for 7 months, with the remaining 9 months not exhibiting significant differences and being split evenly between the two groups. Note, having a lower unemployment rate in a population group does not necessarily result in a higher level of employment. The population also includes people not in the labour force.

Demographic characteristics were analysed to help understand the differences between the linked and unlinked groups. Some characteristics displayed differences between the two groups that were consistent across most time periods, while others varied across time.

Consistent differences:

- Age: The differences were significant for most age groups for every time period. Instances where there was no statistically significant difference included for the groups:
 - aged 65 or over, which displayed no significant difference between the linked and unlinked groups
 - aged 15-24 and 25-34 which were significant in most, but not all, months.
- Year of arrival: Overseas born populations in the linked group tended to have a higher rate of employment than those in the unlinked group. This was particularly true for more recent arrivals.

Variable differences:

- Sex: females in the linked group tended to have a higher rate of employment than females in the unlinked group, whereas males in the linked group tended to have a lower rate of employment.
- Relationship in household: People without children tended to have a lower rate of employment in the linked group, whereas people with children (and their children or dependents) tended to have a higher rate of employment in the linked group, relative to their respective unlinked cohorts. This result was true for both males and females, but the results were accentuated when cross-classified by sex. In other words, there were a greater number of significant differences for females when the linked group had a higher rate of employment for a particular family relationship, and a greater number of significant differences for males when the linked group had a lower rate of employment.
- State/territory:
 - Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory had significantly higher rates of employment in the linked group than the unlinked group
 - South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and (for the most part) New South Wales, had significantly lower rates of employment in the linked group
- Country of birth:
 - The cohorts born in Australia and North-West Europe had significantly lower rates of employment in the

linked group than the unlinked group

- The cohorts born in Africa and Asia had significantly higher rates of employment in the linked group than the unlinked group
- The cohorts born in Southern and Eastern Europe, and the Americas had varying or few significant differences in the rates of employment between the linked and unlinked groups

Share of hours worked by full-time employees

The share of hours worked by full-time employees was very similar in the linked and unlinked groups when considered in aggregate. Only two periods had a significant difference between the two groups (both slightly higher in the linked group). However, examining the differences by various demographics exhibited some stark differences between the linked and unlinked groups.

These results illustrate that care should be taken when analysing estimates related to hours worked. They also illustrate that results drawn from an aggregate population cannot necessarily be generalised across its component subpopulations.

- Sex: females in the linked group had a smaller share of hours worked by full-time workers than females in the unlinked group, whereas males in the linked group had a larger share of hours worked by full-time workers.
- Country of birth: the most consistent differences were evident for the cohort born in Australia offsetting that born in Southern and Central Asia. The Australian-born cohort had a smaller share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group than in the unlinked group, whereas the cohort born in Southern and Central Asia had the opposite: a larger share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group compared to the unlinked. The cohorts born in South-East Asia and the Americas had similar results to that born in Southern and Central, but the results were not as consistently significant across time.
- Year of arrival: the results were very similar to those observed for country of birth. The cohort of migrants arriving 1 to 2 years ago had a larger share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group compared to the unlinked. This was offset by the opposite relationship between the linked and unlinked group being observed for the Australian-born population, as noted above.
- State/territory: there were only a small number of statistically significant results when looking at state or territory. For New South Wales, there were 6 months with significant differences between the linked and unlinked groups, with each exhibiting a larger share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group. Tasmania exhibited the opposite, with a smaller share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group, with significant differences in 5 months.
- Age: there were significant differences observed by age group, predominantly for the cohorts aged:
 - between 25 and 34 years (larger share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group compared to the unlinked group)
 - 65 years or older (smaller share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group compared to the unlinked group).
- Relationship in household: the differences were rarely significant. Where there were significant differences, they were consistent within a cohort. They predominantly related to those who were:
 - living in group households (larger share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group compared to the unlinked group)
 - dependent students or those living alone (smaller share of hours worked by full-time workers in the linked group compared to the unlinked group).

Summary Table

Demographic Characteristic	Unemployment Rate	Employment to Population Ratio	Share of hours worked by people employed full-time
Overall	Linked group is less unemployed than linked group.	Direction of difference between linked and unlinked groups employment is inconsistent across time.	No significant differences in aggregate: offsetting differences by characteristic (see below)
Sex	Linked women less unemployed than unlinked women to a greater extent than linked men are less unemployed than unlinked men.	Linked women more employed than unlinked women*.	Linked women: lesser share of hours worked by full-time workers.
		Linked men less employed than unlinked men*.	Linked men: greater share of hours worked by full-time workers.
Age	Linked group is less unemployed: fewer young people in linked group.	Linked group is more likely to be employed than the unlinked group for every age except 65+ years old.	Linked cohort aged 65+: lesser share of hours worked by full-time workers.
			Linked cohort aged 25-34: greater share of hours worked by full-time workers.
State and territory	Linked group was less unemployed than unlinked irrespective of geography.	Linked Vic, QLD and NT groups were more employed than unlinked groups*.	Linked Tasmania cohort: lesser share of hours worked by full-time workers.
		Linked NSW, SA, WA and Tas groups were less employed than the unlinked group*.	Linked NSW cohort: greater share of hours worked by full-time workers.
Country of birth	No significant differences	Linked overseas-born people more likely to be employed than unlinked overseas-born group.	Linked cohort born in Australia: lesser share of hours worked by full-time workers.
			Linked cohort born in Southern and Central Asia: larger share of hours worked by full-time workers.
Relationship in household	Linked people with partner/spouse in household less unemployed than unlinked group.	Linked people with children tend to be more employed than unlinked group*.	Some significant differences for small cohorts: people living in group households, dependent students, and people living alone.
		Linked people with children tend to be less employed than unlinked group*.	

* Strength of bias (significance of difference) is variable across time.

Further action

It is clear, from the results outlined above, that there are many statistically significant differences between the linked and unlinked LFS sample. These differences will result in bias when producing estimates from the linked sample.

Researchers may wish to consider re-weighting the linked records to account for bias. However, the ABS is not currently offering advice on re-weighting approaches for LFS data.

As noted previously, any analysis or conclusions drawn from the linked LFS data should acknowledge the potential and, where possible, actual impact of bias on the interpretation of results.

Limitations for longitudinal linkage

For general information about the longitudinal aspect of Labour Force Survey data, and some of its limitations, please refer to [Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia).

Along with the duplicates and bias elements, there are additional considerations which apply when analysing the linked LFS data longitudinally. In the linked LFS data there are some instances where individual people appear to be

linked to the Spine for more than 8 survey months. In most instances this is a result of people with similar linkage characteristics (name, age, sex), who have been selected in the LFS sample within a similar geographical area as those in previously selected dwellings, being linked to a single Spine entity. These are different people being linked to the same Spine entity, at different points in time, due to the quality of their linkage information combined with the linking method.

There may also be rare instances of the same person completing the LFS over more than 8 months, as a result of respondents changing residence and their new dwelling being selected in a new or existing rotation group.

References and resources

- [DataLab access \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab)
- [Person Level Integrated Data Asset \(PLIDA\) \(/about/data-services/data-integration/integrated-data/person-level-integrated-data-asset-plida\)](/about/data-services/data-integration/integrated-data/person-level-integrated-data-asset-plida)
- [Labour Force, Australia \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release) (latest release)
- [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release) (latest release)
- [Labour Force, Australia Methodology \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology\)](/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology)
- [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release)
- [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics)

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